



Greenway Committee Minutes

**Regular Meeting
October 1, 2015**

Committee present: John Ridout, Mary Weber, David Nutter, Forrest Merithew, Amy Vanden Heuvel, Kim Williams, Jim Grode, Meredith Gregory.

Staff present: Lucy Crown

Committee absent: Sarah Goldman, Stephanie Gillis

Called to order 3:33

Moved to approve agenda: Rich, Kim seconded, approved unanimously

Moved to approve minutes: Kim moved, David seconded, approved unanimously

Public comment:

1. Bill Jones, Carolina Native Nursery/Asheville Tree Commission (past), Civic Center Commission – requesting time next meeting to discuss native plant list for future greenway development

New Business:

1. City policy requests (Lucy) – City is soliciting policy requests; Greenway committee would pass up to MMTC, which would consider and forward to council
 - a. Natural-surface trails (Kim), approved
 - b. Native plant policy (Mary) – some discussion of whether this is a greenway committee prerogative, Kim suggested GC in league with Parks and Rec.
 - c. Policy for Keeping Projects in Development in all stages of pipeline (Rich)
 - d. Integration of Greenways into Planning: Comp. Plan, UDO, Plan Review (David & Rich)

David Nutter suggested a worksession to bring policy proposals together. Some conversation, request is more to bring ideas of policies and make a case for them, not write the policies themselves. Forrest: If city writes policy requiring professional trailbuilders, would prevent future Hominy Creek-type scenarios. Amy: Natural surface trails and ADA prevents issues with city liability. Policy should be about how to get community-built trails to point where city can take them over? Will meet in 1-2 weeks to review ideas and finalize ideas.

2. December scheduling/Upcoming schedule (Mary) – Field trip moved to November, weather permitting. December 3 meeting conflicts with Carolina Thread Trail Conference, reschedule to December 10. Retreat/orientation after new year.

Unfinished Business:

1. Natural Surface Trails (Kim and Lucy) – Talked with representatives from Knoxville group that have championed 30 miles of natural surface trails over 10 years. Takeaways: sustainability of the trail is better when built by professionals. Close relationship with SORBA for trail maintenance. Have worked with federal and state agencies to build trails on government land, some MOUs but mostly other agreements. They have so much ADA-accessible greenway, they don't feel NSTs are a liability. Main user conflict is on land also used by hunters. Forrest knows SORBA and can set up contact with their leadership.
2. Outreach (Amy) – Branding Kickoff event on November 5th, would like to get ahead of upcoming events.
3. Trail Etiquette Project (Amy) – Trifold brochure in development with rules of the trail, piloted for Hominy Creek but eventually citywide, printing by January.
4. Rhododendron Greenway Update (Lucy) – Letter of intent sent to property owners on both sides of creek.

Transportation Projects:

1. RADTIP meeting well attended, over 150 people showed up.
2. Livingston Complete Streets meeting went well
3. Upset bid on Hominy Creek trailhead property won
4. Drawings of West Asheville/I-240 Greenway out, draft EIS to be released in October